

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5-7 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 were objected to, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 have been so rewritten and are therefore allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Section 102

Claims 1, 3-7, and 10 were rejected as being anticipated by Sekiya *et al.* (USP 5,207,990). Claims 1, 5-7 and 10 have been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend on claim 8 and are therefore allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC 102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Section 103

Claim 2 was rejected as being unpatentable over Sekiya in view of Shinzawa *et al* (USP 5,287,698). Claim 2 has been amended to depend on claim 8 and is therefore allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

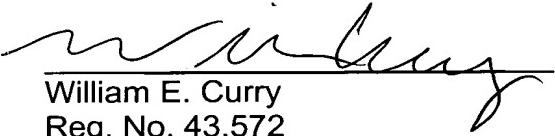
Conclusion

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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